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Agenda item 117

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulla Eid Salman **Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/58/508 and Add.1-5.

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Human rights questions

Letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952)

Letter dated 2 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration and the statement on Palestine adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement at their meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 September 2003 (A/58/420)

Letter dated 12 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/594-S/2003/1090)

Item 117 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003[1]

Report of the Human Rights Committee[2]

Report of the Committee against Torture[3]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/58/221)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/58/284)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/58/306)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/58/307)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/58/326)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/58/120)

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[1] A/58/3 (Parts I and II); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/58/40), vol. I.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 44* (A/58/44).

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth meeting, held at Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2003 (A/58/350)

Letter dated 13 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of a meeting on reform of the human rights treaty body system, held in Malbun, Liechtenstein, from 4 to 7 May 2003 (A/58/123)

Letter dated 9 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/429-S/2003/982)

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/541-S/2003/1049)

Letter dated 17 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/603-S/2003/1101)

Letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/58/8)

Item 117 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/58/121)

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities (A/58/181 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/58/185 and Add.1-2)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/58/186)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/58/212)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/58/255)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/58/257)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/58/261)

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/58/266)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/58/268)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/58/276 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/58/279)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/58/309)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/58/533)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/58/118 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants (A/58/275)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief (A/58/296)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia (A/58/317)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on education and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/58/318)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food (A/58/330)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on human rights defenders (A/58/380)

Letter dated 9 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/429-S/2003/982)

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/541-S/2003/1049)

Letter dated 17 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/58/603-S/2003/1101)

Letter dated 7 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/58/9 and Add.1)

Item 117 (c)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the mission of the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and of a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission (A/58/127)

Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (A/58/218)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/58/219)

Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in Myanmar (A/58/325)

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/58/334)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/58/338)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone (A/58/379)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on internally displaced persons (A/58/393)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (A/58/421)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/58/427)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/58/448)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/58/534)

Letter dated 21 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/58/6)

Item 117 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.

Item 117 (e)
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[4]

[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 36* (A/58/36).

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 60th, 61st and 62nd meetings, on 28 November and 1 December 2003, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents considered in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 5).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents submitted under the item entitled "Human rights questions":

Under sub-item (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[3]

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth meeting, held at Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2003;[4]

Under sub-item (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants;[5]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants;[6]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development;[7]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures;[8]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on human rights defenders;[9]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/58/40), vol. I.
[2] A/58/306.
[3] A/58/326.
[4] A/58/350.
[5] A/58/121.
[6] A/58/275.
[7] A/58/276.
[8] A/58/279.
[9] A/58/380.

Under sub-item (c):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel;[10]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General regarding the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan;[11]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq;[12]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone;[13]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[14]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi;[15]

Under sub-item (e):

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[16]

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[10] A/58/218.
[11] A/58/334.
[12] A/58/338.
[13] A/58/379.
[14] A/58/421.
[15] A/58/448.
[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/58/36).